

**AMENDMENTS TO THE CLAIMS:**

This listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the application:

**Listing of Claims:**

Claims 1-20 (cancelled)

Claim 21 (currently amended) A compensation system for a firearm, said compensation system comprising:

a shroud having a longitudinal bore;

a barrel releasably housed within said shroud and defining thereby a firing axis, said barrel including an annular flange disposed on a distal end of said barrel for arresting a longitudinal translation of said barrel within said longitudinal bore, said annular flange having a flange diameter which is greater than an outer diameter of said barrel;

a compensator assembly including an attaching means for releasably attaching said compensator assembly adjacent a muzzle end of said barrel; [[and]]

a gas discharge port formed in said compensator assembly, said gas discharge port not being aligned with said longitudinal bore and communicating with an inner bore of said compensator assembly;and

wherein said shroud includes a recess formed therein and said attachment means is configured to be releasably accepted within said recess.

Claim 22 (cancelled)

Claim 23 (original) The compensation system for a firearm according to claim 22, further comprising:

a tensioning means for selectively preloading said attachment means within said recess in a direction substantially parallel to said firing axis.

Claim 24 (cancelled)

Claim 25 (previously presented) A compensation system for a firearm, said compensation system comprising:

a shroud having a longitudinal bore;

a barrel releasably housed within said shroud and defining thereby a firing axis, said barrel including a flange disposed on a distal end of said barrel for arresting a longitudinal translation of said barrel within said longitudinal bore;

a compensator assembly including an attaching means for releasably attaching said compensator assembly adjacent a muzzle end of said barrel;

a gas discharge port formed in said compensator assembly, said gas discharge port not being aligned with said longitudinal bore and communicating with an inner bore of said compensator assembly;

a tensioning means for selectively preloading said attachment means within said recess in a direction substantially parallel to said firing axis;

said shroud includes a threaded bore formed beneath said longitudinal bore; and said tensioning means is a bolt that threadedly engages with said threaded bore.

Claim 26 (original) The compensation system for a firearm according to claim 25, wherein:

said bolt includes a raised flange that selectively tensions said attachment means against said recess.

Claim 27 (previously presented) The compensation system for a firearm according to claim 26, wherein:

said shroud includes a gas aperture which is aligned with said gas discharge port when said compensator assembly is attached adjacent said muzzle end of said barrel.

Claims 28-29 (cancelled)

Claim 30 (new) A compensation system for a firearm, said compensation system comprising:

a shroud having a longitudinal bore;

a barrel releasably housed within said shroud and defining thereby a firing axis, said barrel including an annular flange disposed on a distal end of said barrel for arresting a longitudinal translation of said barrel within said longitudinal bore, said annular flange having a flange diameter which is greater than an outer diameter of said barrel;

a compensator assembly including an attaching means for releasably attaching said compensator assembly adjacent a muzzle end of said barrel;

a gas discharge port formed in said compensator assembly, said gas discharge port not being aligned with said longitudinal bore and communicating with an inner bore of said compensator assembly; and

wherein said shroud includes a gas aperture which is aligned with said gas discharge port when said compensator assembly is attached adjacent said muzzle end of said barrel.